

1873-74

R.M.H.S. RESOURCE CENTER  
READING, MASS.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES  
OF THE  
TOWN OF READING,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874;

THE  
REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

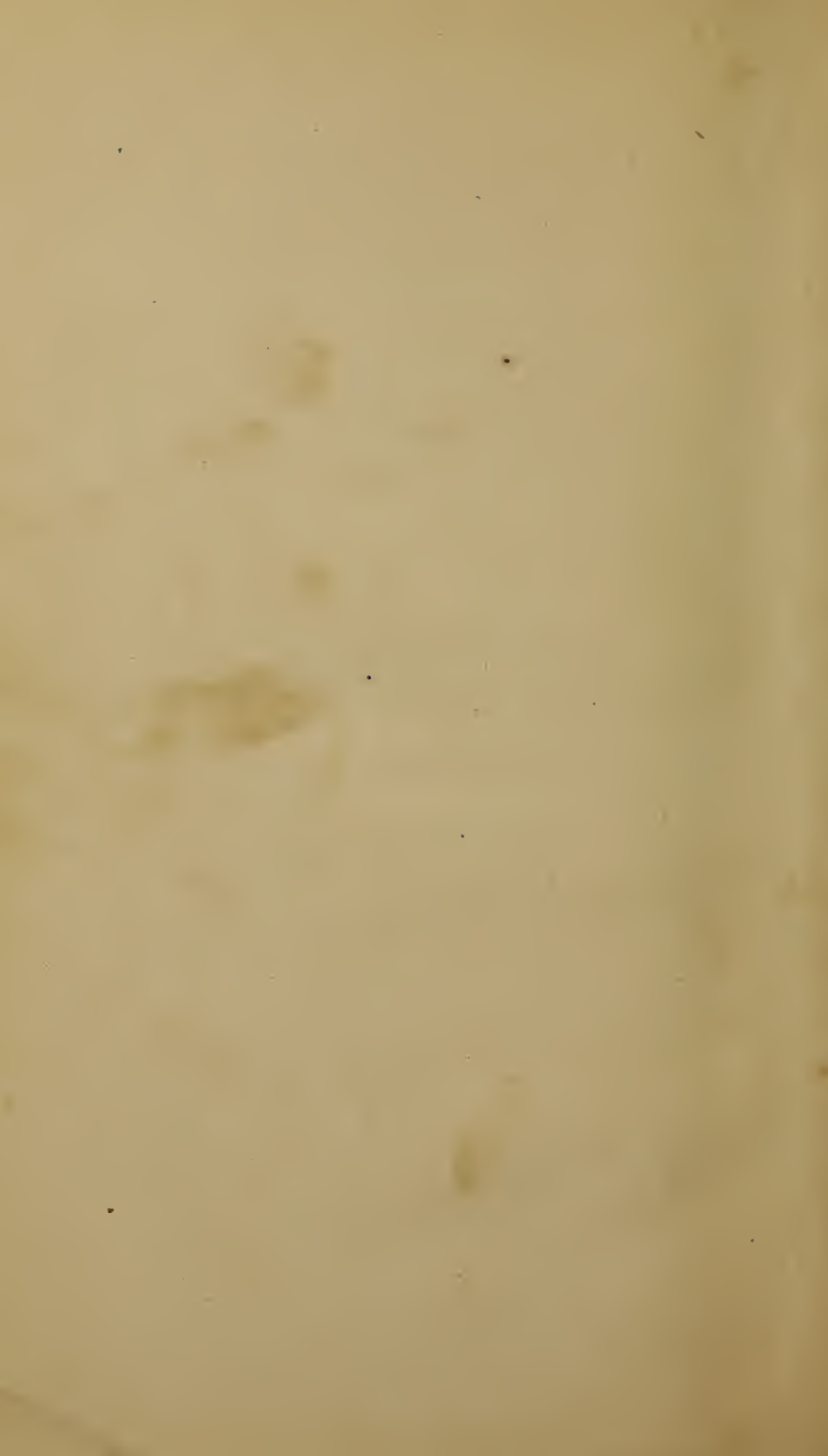
FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1873-74;

THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ;

ALSO OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS.



BOSTON:  
HOLLIS & GUNN, PRINTERS, 31 HAWLEY STREET.  
1874.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES  
OF THE  
TOWN OF READING,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874;  
THE  
REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1873-74;  
THE TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY;  
ALSO OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS.

---

BOSTON:  
HOLLIS & GUNN, PRINTERS, 31 HAWLEY STREET.  
1874.



# RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

## EXPENSES OF SCHOOLS.

### HIGH SCHOOL.

Paid Cyrus A. Cole, principal . . . . .	\$1,800 00	
Miss Martha Keith, assistant . . . . .	700 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	79 19	
for care of rooms . . . . .	83 00	
for fuel . . . . .	128 19	
	<hr/>	\$2790 38

### PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Lena T. Wood, principal . . . . .	\$700 00	
Miss Jennie R. Barrus, assistant . . . . .	252 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	77 33	
for care of rooms . . . . .	83 00	
for fuel . . . . .	111 87	
	<hr/>	1224 20

### VILLAGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss A. M. Knight, principal . . . . .	\$500 00	
Miss Addie B. Howes, assistant . . . . .	138 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	68 41	
for care of rooms . . . . .	74 40	
for fuel . . . . .	63 48	
	<hr/>	844 29

### UNION STREET SCHOOLS.

#### UPPER MEDIUM.

Paid Miss Mary A. Willis, for teaching . . . . .	\$284 00	
Miss Emma Eames, " . . . . .	50 00	
H. G. Carey, for instruction in music . . . . .	33 08	
for care of room . . . . .	74 40	
for fuel . . . . .	55 75	
	<hr/>	497 23
Amount carried forward . . . . .		<hr/> \$5356 10



Amount brought forward . . . . . \$5356 10

LOWER MEDIUM.

Paid Miss E. S. Foster, for teaching . . . . .	\$324 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	33 06	
for care of room . . . . .	74 40	
for fuel . . . . .	54 25	
	<hr/>	485 71

UPPER PRIMARY.

Paid Miss Sarah A. Sweetzer, for teaching . . . . .	\$306 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	33 06	
for care of room . . . . .	74 40	
for fuel . . . . .	33 10	
	<hr/>	446 56

LOWER PRIMARY.

Paid Miss Ruth L. Pratt, for teaching . . . . .	\$324 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	33 06	
for care of room . . . . .	74 40	
for fuel . . . . .	30 43	
	<hr/>	461 89

WALNUT STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Miss E. M. Porter, for teaching . . . . .	\$120 00	
Miss Sarah L. Stoodley " . . . . .	240 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	22 93	
for care of rooms . . . . .	35 00	
for fuel . . . . .	49 63	
	<hr/>	467 56

WALNUT STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Addie B. Howes, for teaching . . . . .	\$96 00	
for care of room . . . . .	4 00	
for fuel . . . . .	12 60	
	<hr/>	112 60

WOBURN STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Paid Mrs. Nellie F. Temple, for teaching . . . . .	\$120 00	
Miss Helen M. Clark, " . . . . .	240 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	25 06	
for care of room . . . . .	30 00	
for fuel . . . . .	48 04	
	<hr/>	463 10

Amount carried forward . . . . .	\$7793 52
----------------------------------	-----------



Amount brought forward . . . . . \$7793 52

### WOBURN STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Lillian F. Loring, for teaching . . . . .	\$288 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	25 06	
for care of room . . . . .	22 15	
for fuel . . . . .	33 00	
	<hr/>	368 21

### LOWELL STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Lizzie B. Clark, for teaching . . . . .	\$288 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	25 06	
for care of room . . . . .	29 00	
for fuel . . . . .	53 17	
	<hr/>	395 23

### MAIN STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Julia McDuffie, for teaching . . . . .	\$192 00	
Miss Florence Parker " . . . . .	84 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	25 06	
for care of room . . . . .	27 00	
for fuel . . . . .	29 68	
	<hr/>	357 74

### HAVERHILL STREET MIXED SCHOOL.

Paid Miss Abbie Wakefield, for teaching . . . . .	\$288 00	
H. G. Carey, for musical instruction . . . . .	25 06	
for care of room . . . . .	27 50	
for fuel . . . . .	33 12	
	<hr/>	373 68
		<hr/>
		\$9288 38

Appropriation . . . . .	8500 00	
School Fund . . . . .	197 97	
	<hr/>	8697 97
		<hr/>
Overdrawn . . . . .		\$590 41

## INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Paid Nathan Bancroft, for setting glass . . . . .	\$3 20
Wm. Porter, for labor on Union St. school-houses . . . . .	18 36
W. H. Willis, for school-books . . . . .	9 48
J. L. Hammett, for crayons . . . . .	13 00
“ “ for globe and charts . . . . .	23 95
F. J. Bancroft, for piano for High School Exhibition . . . . .	5 00
W. O. Haskell & Son, for furniture for schools . . . . .	379 10
Adrian Mertens, for use of pump 2 years, . . . . .	6 00
W. Vermill, for building fence south side of Medium school-house . . . . .	39 38
G.W. Parker, removing settees in High School house . . . . .	4 00
G. W. Parker, for brush for High School house . . . . .	1 00
J. C. Cook, for painting and setting glass . . . . .	6 90
G.W. Batchelder, labor at Woburn st. school-house . . . . .	0 90
Citizens' Gas Light Co., for gas for High School . . . . .	9 00
W. H. Bancroft, for painting and setting glass . . . . .	14 69
W. E. Beard, for clock for Upper Primary School . . . . .	6 00
Parker & Stone, for pails, brushes, and lock . . . . .	3 55
J. C. Cook, painting library-room for High School . . . . .	16 62
Alden Batchelder, for bookcase for Preparatory High School . . . . .	20 00
Otis H. Weed, for ventilators . . . . .	150 00
John Pike, gas-fitting library-room for High School . . . . .	9 38
G. W. Atkinson, for brushes, brooms, and pails . . . . .	4 60
J. L. Pratt, for setting glass . . . . .	7 55
Bancroft & Temple, repairs on school-houses . . . . .	28 40
Citizens' Gas Company, for gas for High School . . . . .	6 75
T. B. Pratt, for brushes for High School . . . . .	4 00
L. B. Loring, for broom “ “ . . . . .	0 40
R. Nichols, cleaning out-house, Woburn St. School . . . . .	2 00
G. O. Batchelder, rent of land for Main St. School . . . . .	5 00
Adelbert E. Batchelder, for setting glass . . . . .	0 75
G. Beasley, removing ashes from High School-house . . . . .	4 00
J. N. Nichols, for setting glass . . . . .	3 85
Parker & Stone, for bell-rope for Walnut Street school-house . . . . .	1 05
Parker & Stone, for glass and putty . . . . .	0 30
N. W. Broad, for fixing lock . . . . .	0 65
W. H. Bancroft, for setting glass . . . . .	4 10
W. H. Willis, for school-books . . . . .	8 21
Lang's Express, for freight. . . . .	2 20
Eugene De Jean, for labor and furniture . . . . .	2 90
Hiram Barrus, for school-books. . . . .	80 85
G. W. Atkinson, for brushes and rope . . . . .	5 54
T. Littlefield, for dippers, and repair of stoves . . . . .	26 43

---

 \$939 04

## EXPENSES POOR AT THE ALMS HOUSE.

## INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Furniture . . . . .	\$293 29
Beds and Bedding . . . . .	245 65
Provisions . . . . .	111 98
Stoves and fixtures . . . . .	103 75
Manure . . . . .	65 00
2 horses . . . . .	425 00
1 cow . . . . .	65 00
2 swine . . . . .	30 00
2 carts . . . . .	135 00
1 farm wagon . . . . .	85 00
1 horse sled . . . . .	25 00
1 stone wagon . . . . .	20 00
1 mowing machine . . . . .	70 00
Farming utensils . . . . .	159 00
Wood and coal . . . . .	130 12
Posts and lumber . . . . .	15 00
Hay . . . . .	99 50
13 fowls . . . . .	15 00
Grain and meal . . . . .	4 00
Produce . . . . .	16 00
Bills due for labor, produce, and stock . . . . .	438 00
"    "    wood and lumber . . . . .	220 00
	<hr/>
	\$2771 29
Inventory, March 1, 1873 . . . . .	2570 29
	<hr/>
"    more than last year. . . . .	\$201 00
Cash drawn for supplies . . . . .	1063 89
	<hr/>
	\$862 89
Deduct supplies for 828 travellers, @ 62 cents each. . . . .	513 36
	<hr/>
	\$349 53
Due from Town of Woburn, for support of Asahel Porter. . . . .	137 00
	<hr/>
Net expense of the Poor in the Almshouse . . . . .	\$212 53

## NAMES AND AGES OF INMATES AT ALMSHOUSE.

	YEARS.
Widow Mary Dean . . . . .	90
"    John McIntire . . . . .	77
Miss Caroline Wiley . . . . .	67
Alpheus Austin . . . . .	54
Asahel Porter . . . . .	74
Benjamin Weston . . . . .	73
Horatio G. Brown . . . . .	75
Whole number of inmates during the year. . . . .	7
Present "    " . . . . .	6
Average "    " . . . . .	4 $\frac{2}{3}$

Asahel Porter died May 13, 1873.      Widow Mary Dean died August 29, 1873.

**EXPENSES OF THE POOR AT THE ALMSHOUSE.**

Paid cash for supplies, for 1872 . . . . .	\$22 55
for groceries . . . . .	509 86
for flour and bread . . . . .	158 70
for grain and meal . . . . .	214 00
for provisions . . . . .	382 56
for fish . . . . .	20 76
for bedding and clothing . . . . .	38 63
for furniture . . . . .	16 36
for produce . . . . .	5 76
for stock . . . . .	255 50
for miscellaneous . . . . .	5 04
for wood and coal . . . . .	344 01
for blacksmith bills . . . . .	36 27
for hired labor . . . . .	188 91
for medicine . . . . .	4 25
for shoes . . . . .	2 60
for repairs on carts . . . . .	3 25
for wheelbarrow . . . . .	2 50
for ice . . . . .	12 00
for horse cart (in exchange) . . . . .	50 00
for medicine for horse . . . . .	8 00
for repairs on buildings . . . . .	49 07
for farming utensils . . . . .	4 65
for funeral expenses of Asahel Porter . . . . .	27 00
for medical services—J. H. Hanaford's bill . . . . .	5 00
for " " —F. F. Brown's bill . . . . .	13 50
for salary of superintendent . . . . .	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$2880 73

**CREDITS AT THE ALMSHOUSE.**

Received for stock sold . . . . .	\$76 95
for lighting street lamps . . . . .	49 25
for wood sold . . . . .	338 57
for removing ashes from High School house . . . . .	4 00
for use of lock-up . . . . .	2 00
for guns sold . . . . .	14 50
for boarding horse . . . . .	5 25
for labor on highways . . . . .	681 00
for labor for sundry persons . . . . .	7 35
for labor on cisterns . . . . .	178 50
of N. H. Turner, for labor . . . . .	12 00
of Charles Tweed, for labor . . . . .	42 12
of Charles Tweed, for board . . . . .	183 00
of James Sullivan, Jr., for board . . . . .	\$48 00
of Abigail Beers, for board . . . . .	70 00
	<hr/>
Amount carried forward,	\$1712 49

Amount brought forward,	\$1712 49
Received of Silas and Ellen Dean, for support of Widow	
Mary Dean . . . . .	52 00
of Mrs. John Judkins, for wood for 1872 . . . . .	4 50
for Widow Mary Dean's dower . . . . .	10 00
for removing snow from roads and sidewalks . . . . .	37 85
for cash for supplies . . . . .	1063 89
	<hr/>
	\$2880 73

#### EXPENSES OF THE POOR OUT OF THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for supplies for Benjamin Weston . . . . .	\$104 50
"    "    Ivory Murray . . . . .	\$73 51
"    Funeral expenses of Mrs. Murray. . . . .	21 65
F. F. Brown, for medical services . . . . .	15 75
	<hr/>
for supplies for Joseph Bryant . . . . .	110 91
"    "    Sylvanus Blanchard . . . . .	171 90
F. F. Brown, for medical services . . . . .	90 26
	<hr/>
for supplies for Morris Donnegan . . . . .	7 50
F. F. Brown, for medical services . . . . .	40 67
	<hr/>
for supplies for Michael Daly and family . . . . .	11 50
F. B. Kimball, for medical services . . . . .	97 76
Daniel Sullivan, taking care of M. Daly while sick . . . . .	13 75
	<hr/>
North Reading, for supplies for Henry Jenkins. . . . .	33 25
for supplies for William Pierce . . . . .	22 50
"    "    Aaron McIntire . . . . .	69 50
"    "    Mrs. Calvin Nichols . . . . .	45 50
F. F. Brown, for medical services . . . . .	44 94
	<hr/>
for supplies for Mrs. White . . . . .	44 77
F. B. Kimball, for medical services . . . . .	68 35
	<hr/>
for supplies for Mrs. Ellen Wall . . . . .	1 25
"    "    "    McFadden . . . . .	69 60
"    "    "    Catherine O'Keefe . . . . .	11 02
"    "    "    John Judkins . . . . .	16 25
"    "    "    Henry Baker . . . . .	27 27
"    supplies for Edmund Grover . . . . .	22 50
"    railroad tickets for paupers . . . . .	1 60
"    board for Abby Heselton, at Worcester Lunatic Hospital. . . . .	10 00
	<hr/>
	4 06
	4 50
	15 00
	1 05
	115 00
	<hr/>
	\$1012 53
Deduct Jona. Heselton's note, given for Abby Heselton's board, as	
above. . . . .	115 00
	<hr/>
	\$897 53
Due from Town of Bradford, for support of Samuel Poor . . . . .	26 35
	<hr/>
Net expense of poor out of the Almshouse . . . . .	\$871 18
"    "    in the Almshouse . . . . .	212 53
	<hr/>
Whole expense of poor out and in the Almshouse . . . . .	\$1083 71

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid E. A. Winship, for services as School Com., 1872	\$48 50
C. D. Wright, " " " " " .	55 00
W. J. Wightman " " " " " .	37 00
Hiram Barrus " " " " " .	18 00
E. A. Winship " " " 1873 .	30 00
C. B. McIntire " " " " " .	25 00
Charles Tweed, for services as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor . . . . .	87 00
Nathan P. Pratt, for services as selectman, as- sessor and overseer of the poor . . . . .	140 00
W. J. Wightman, for services as selectman, as- sessor and overseer of the poor . . . . .	297 00
James A. Bancroft, for services as treasurer and collector . . . . .	350 00
James A. Bancroft, for services as road commiss'r.	50 00
Charles Tweed, " " " " " .	50 00
Charles A. Weston, " " " " " .	50 00
Charles Tweed, " " com. on cisterns .	132 00
Nathan P. Pratt, " " " " " .	30 00
Charles H. Lang, " " " " " .	15 00
W. J. Wightman, " " " " " .	15 00
Andrew Howes, " " as auditor . .	3 00
William L. Crowe, " " as constable and police . . . . .	23 00
W. J. Wightman, for services as town clerk . .	25 00
W. J. Wightman, for recording births, deaths, and marriages . . . . .	57 80
W. J. Wightman, for making other official records .	12 00
	<hr/> \$1550 30

## TOWN OFFICES.

Paid William Proctor, for rent . . . . .	\$150 00
J. C. Cook, for painting and whitewashing . .	21 34
Charles H. Lang, express . . . . .	3 25
for fuel . . . . .	9 50
for stationery . . . . .	8 75
for postage stamps . . . . .	2 75
for broom . . . . .	45
	<hr/> \$196 04

## NIGHT WATCHMAN.

Paid John Norwood for services . . . . .	\$370 00
Harris Austin . . . . .	168 00
	<hr/> \$538 00



**PRINTING.**

Paid Hollis & Gunn for town and school reports . . .	\$300 00	
"    "    order of exercises for High School, tax bills, and selectmen orders . . . . .	38 50	
Gray & Metcalf, for advertising dog notice . . .	2 00	
"    "    for printing course of studies . . .	21 00	
	<hr/>	\$361 50

**PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

Paid E. Appleton for moving library, rent, &c. . . .	\$250 00	
"    on account of library appropriation . . .	250 00	
F. H. Knight, treasurer of library . . . . .	250 00	
"    "    "    dog tax for 1872 . . . . .	80 59	
	<hr/>	\$830 59
Appropriation . . . . .	750 00	
"    of dog tax . . . . .	80 59	
	<hr/>	830 59

**CEMETERY.**

Paid Solon Bancroft, Treasurer . . . . .	\$1210 85	
Appropriation . . . . .	\$500 00	
Former appropriations remaining in the Treasury .	850 00	
	<hr/>	1350 00
Amount remaining in the Treasury to credit of Trustees. . . .		\$139 15

**DECORATION OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES.**

Paid Nathan D. Stoodley . . . . .	\$250 00	
Appropriation . . . . .	\$250	

**STREET LAMPS.**

Paid C. W. Hebard, for fluid and lamps . . . . .	\$5 62	
John Pike, for labor and materials . . . . .	12 22	
Amos McIntire, for painting, and repair of lamps .	11 50	
J. C. Cook, for repair of lamps . . . . .	2 75	
T. Littlefield "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "	0 50	
Citizens' Gas Light Company, for gas. . . . .	117 07	
George Beasley for lighting . . . . .	108 25	
	<hr/>	\$257 91

**DAMAGES PAID FOR LAND TAKEN FOR HIGHWAYS.**

Paid Estate of Amos Parker, for land to widen Orange st.	\$50 00	
Abner Bancroft, "    "    Green "    "	650 00	
Isaac Adams, "    "    "    "	150 00	
R. L. McPherson, "    "    "    "	25 00	
D. C. Temple, "    "    "    "	25 00	
Emory Bancroft, Adm'tr, "    "    Bancroft av.	80 00	
"    "    "    "    "    High st.	30 00	
William Carter, 2d, "    "    "    "	350 00	
	<hr/>	\$1360



## REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Paid Charles Tweed, road commissioner, for money expended for labor . . . . .	\$431 49	
Charles A. Weston, road commissioner, for money expended for labor . . . . .	1703 45	
J. Breck & Son, for pick handles . . . . .	3 12	
Dodge, Gilbert & Co., for hammers . . . . .	1 16	
C. B. Holt, for labor . . . . .	28 81	
J. G. Hutchinson, for labor . . . . .	172 00	
Dennis P. Babb, " . . . . .	50 00	
J. L. Pratt, " . . . . .	42 00	
Charles Wakefield, " . . . . .	8 50	
Newton Symonds " . . . . .	8 00	
Alfred Nichols " . . . . .	295 72	
Robert A. Harmon " . . . . .	40 00	
B. Whelton " . . . . .	115 50	
Emerson Smith " . . . . .	213 75	
N. P. Pratt, " . . . . .	21 00	
George Beasley, " . . . . .	681 00	
T. F. Gould, for blacksmith work . . . . .	5 77	
John A. Blunt " " . . . . .	16 33	
Committee on cisterns for gravel . . . . .	75 00	
Richard Robinson, " " . . . . .	33 54	
		\$3946 14
Appropriation . . . . .	\$4000 00	
Unexpended . . . . .		53 86
		<u>\$4000 00</u>

## EXTRA HIGHWAY WORK.

Paid Charles Tweed, for money expended on widening High Street . . . . .	\$425 94	
Charles Tweed, for money expended on widening Bancroft Avenue . . . . .	330 00	
Charles Tweed, for money expended on widening Green Street . . . . .	286 70	
R. M. Wilkins, for covering stone for culverts . . . . .	179 28	
J. Adan Waldo, for drain pipe . . . . .	10 24	
J. L. Pratt, for posts and rails, and repairing guide board . . . . .	9 00	
James M. Eames, for bound stone . . . . .	18 00	
Henry Cook, for moving wall on Franklin Street . . . . .	2 00	
W. M. Phillips, for plank for bridge . . . . .	3 00	
Alfred Nichols, for labor on highway, setting posts and rails . . . . .	34 62	
J. L. Pratt, for labor on highway . . . . .	2 50	
N. W. C. Carter, for rails for highway . . . . .	39 99	
		<u>\$1341 27</u>

**EXPENDED ON CISTERNS.**

Paid Charles Tweed, for money expended on cisterns .	\$811 25	
Charles H. Lang, " " " .	110 42	
Edward Parker, for labor . . . . .	57 75	
N. H. Turner " . . . . .	410 37	
Boston and Maine Railroad, for freight and bricks .	52 45	
Peterson & Parker, for cess-pool stone . . . . .	42 00	
Bancroft & Temple, for brick . . . . .	340 00	
Dennis P. Babb, drawing engine to well on Green St.	0 50	
Dennis P. Babb, for drawing stone for cistern . .	15 00	
J. Adan Waldo, for drain pipe . . . . .	48 00	
Young & Emerson, for cement . . . . .	323 75	
S. M. Hall, for labor . . . . .	197 96	
C. H. Moulton, for building cistern on Green Street .	150 00	
Dennis P. Babb, for labor . . . . .	16 00	
G. W. Atkinson, for lanterns and nails . . . . .	7 31	
N. P. Pratt, for labor . . . . .	14 00	
Bancroft & Temple, for freight on bricks . . . .	88 00	
" " for stock and labor . . . . .	55 18	
T. B. Pratt, for kerosene oil . . . . .	0 30	
N. W. Broad, for labor and materials . . . . .	4 52	
George Beasley, for labor . . . . .	178 50	
John A. Blunt, for blacksmith work . . . . .	40 25	
George Bancroft, for sand . . . . .	38 00	
S. N. Stone, for powder, fuse, and shovels . . . .	4 49	
E. Hamden, for plank . . . . .	6 20	
Boston and Maine Railroad, for freight . . . .	1 80	
Samuel Brown, for plank . . . . .	4 89	
B. Whetton, for labor . . . . .	104 68	
Emerson Smith, for labor . . . . .	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$3223 57
Received of Road Commissioners, for gravel . . . .		75 00
		<hr/>
		\$3148 57

**REMOVING SNOW.**

Paid C. H. Moulton . . . . .	\$66 00	
J. G. Hutchinson . . . . .	40 00	
Rufus W. Damon . . . . .	1 25	
Alfred Nichols . . . . .	18 50	
Frederick Bancroft . . . . .	2 00	
J. L. Pratt . . . . .	24 50	
Tim Riorden . . . . .	22 50	
Emerson Smith . . . . .	10 12	
Daniel Sullivan . . . . .	19 50	
David Crowell . . . . .	17 50	
George Beasley . . . . .	37 85	
W. H. Temple, for removing snow from reservoirs .	10 00	
Levi Town, " " " . . . . .	1 75	
Charles Tweed " " " . . . . .	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$274 47

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid John Norwood, for handcuffs . . . . .	\$4 75
Nathan Bancroft, for care of, and repairing, Town flag . . . . .	9 50
W. H. Willis, for vaccinating 26 persons . . . . .	10 40
Emery B. Eames, for damages sustained on highway. . . . .	450 00
Edward Safford, for Lyceum Hall . . . . .	50 00
Moses H. Garfield, for painting hearse . . . . .	28 10
G. C. Gleason, for expenses for use of hearse . . . . .	5 00
C. P. Judd, for settlement of Mrs. Case's suit . . . . .	750 00
George W. Dean, for ringing bell . . . . .	3 00
North Reading, for bound stone, and setting same . . . . .	2 00
T. B. Pratt, for refreshments at Salem Street fire . . . . .	20 28
Parker & Stone, " " " . . . . .	6 80
G. W. Atkinson, " " " . . . . .	6 70
H. E. Cox, " " " . . . . .	2 00
H. D. Babb, for teaming derrick . . . . .	2 75
S. E. Gould, for land on Woburn Street . . . . .	100 00
J. C. Cook, for painting case for weights and measures . . . . .	3 50
Boston Herald, for advertising . . . . .	31 20
G. C. Gleason, for Return of Deaths to Town Clerk . . . . .	13 25
C. H. Moulton, for moving Hancock Engine house . . . . .	8 00
W. D. Washburn, for damage to carriage . . . . .	65 00
C. P. Judd, for witness fees in Mrs. Case's suit . . . . .	19 25
F. B. Kimball, for services " " . . . . .	7 00
John A. Blunt, for tending check-list . . . . .	3 00
George Bancroft, for drawing engine to fire, 1871 . . . . .	2 00
B. Peabody, for repairs of Town pumps . . . . .	17 25
Dennis Batchelder, for repairs of Lobs Pound bridge . . . . .	73 70
James Doucette, for use of derrick at " " . . . . .	13 00
John N. Sanborn, for stone and labor " " . . . . .	6 00
Alfred Nichols, for labor on Mill bridge . . . . .	54 00
North Reading, for repairs on bridge on Main Street . . . . .	10 98
W. L. Crowe, for watching fire on Salem Street . . . . .	3 00
J. S. Pike, " " " " . . . . .	3 00
Nathan Bancroft, for taking care of Town flag . . . . .	5 00
for deed of land from and to S. E. Gould and R. T. Dodge . . . . .	4 00
for deed of land from George Parker to the Town . . . . .	1 00
for railroad tickets . . . . .	7 25
J. A. Bancroft, for survey of Woburn St. school yard. . . . .	4 00

---

 \$3223 57

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF ENGINEERS  
OF THE  
READING FIRE DEPARTMENT.

*To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of  
Reading:*

The Fire Department, as at present organized, consists of a Hook and Ladder Truck, located on Middle Street, manned by sixteen men; Hancock Engine, No. 2, located on Woburn Street, manned by forty men; Eagle Engine, No. 4, located on Union Street, manned by sixty men. The Washington Engine, No. 3, located on Ash Street, has been placed under the charge of Captain T. F. Gould, who has organized a Company of volunteers, who serve without pay. The Union Engine, No. 1, has been placed under the charge of Solon A. Parker, Esq., and is now located at his mill on Pearl Street, and has no company,—making a total force of one hundred and twenty-two men, including a Board of five Engineers. The Hook and Ladder Truck and Engines Nos. 2 and 4 are in good order, well manned, and are officered by men well qualified to command, and who thoroughly understand their duties. The Department is now supplied with about 2,200 feet of hose, 1,011 feet of which has been purchased the past year, and which we consider will be sufficient for several years to come. The house occupied by Hancock, No. 2, having for some years past been considered too small for housing the Engine and convening the Company at its monthly meetings, the town, at its August meeting, appropriated the sum of \$2,000 for

a new house, and instructed the Board of Engineers to contract for and superintend the erection of the same. In accordance with those instructions, we have contracted with W. M. Phillips, Esq., to furnish material and erect a house 22 x 38 feet for the sum of \$1,800. Some alterations have been made in the original contract; and these, with the expense of grading, etc., will make the total cost of the building not far from \$1,900. The house will need furniture and fixtures for the convenience of the Company and those having charge of the apparatus; and, not feeling authorized to expend any of the original appropriation for that purpose, we shall ask for an appropriation to enable us to do it the ensuing year. The building is rapidly approaching completion, and will be ready for occupancy early in April. The first fire that occurred since the last Report, was a building located at the corner of High and Green Streets, owned by Mrs. Martha J. Greenwood, and occupied by Moses Mears as a shoe shop and saloon. This fire broke out at 11 o'clock, P. M., on the 2d of May, and was confined to the building in which it originated. The loss was about \$400, and was fully insured. On May 3d, at about midnight, fire was discovered in a building on Salem Street, owned and occupied by F. Miller, as a cabinet manufactory. The building and contents were totally destroyed; loss, \$3,500; insurance, \$400. June 15th—alarm caused by the burning of a screen at the drug store of R. J. Bell; damage trifling. July 12th, 10 P. M., a fire was discovered in a building on Belmont Street, owned and occupied by F. Tettenborn as a cabinet shop, and from thence it extended to a barn owned by Loton Parker, and also to a building owned by M. D. Berry and occupied by Dr. E. M. Pitman. From this building the fire communicated to the long wooden structure known as the Berry Steam Mill, and owned by J. C. Sleeper, of Malden. This fire created a general alarm in Wakefield, and the whole department of that town was soon on the spot; but, on account of the scarcity of water, they were not called into service. Our own department, however, by great exertions, succeeded in saving the dwelling-houses of Mr. Parker, Dr. Pitman, and Rev. W. A. Thompson. The want of water



at this fire was a source of solicitude on the part of the Engineers, and had the wind been fresh in almost any other direction, there must have been a most extensive conflagration. We will say, in this connection, that our water supply has since been increased by the addition of five large cisterns and three powerful wells, making a total of ten cisterns and ten wells located on the public highways, and under the control of the Engineers. There are also four private wells of large capacity, that would be available at any time in case of need. The aggregate loss by the last mentioned fire was estimated to be \$8,000; the aggregate insurance was \$5,800. September 10th, a most outrageous attempt was made about midnight to fire the Lyceum Hall building, by setting fire to some rubbish at the rear door of the store occupied by G. W. Atkinson. Luckily, however, it was discovered before making much headway, and was extinguished by Assistant Engineer Nichols and his family, without creating a general alarm. On September 24th the Department made their annual parade; and, after marching through the principal streets, repaired to Main Street, where a public exhibition of the apparatus took place, to the entire satisfaction of the Engineers and other citizens of the town who were present.

The expenses of the Department for the past year have been as follows :

Paid E. E. Smith, for services as Steward of Hancock Engine, No. 2 . . . . .	\$35.00
“ “ repairs on Hancock Engine, No. 2 . . . . .	3.25
“ “ oil, for “ “ “ . . . . .	1.50
W. H. Temple, for services as Engineer for 1872 . . . . .	25.00
C. C. Cummings, for services as Steward of Eagle Engine, No. 4 . . . . .	50.00
C. H. Danforth, for services as Engineer . . . . .	17.00
G. H. Parker, “ “ . . . . .	20.00
William Vermill, for services as Steward of Hook and Ladder Company . . . . .	5.00
Members of Fire Department, for services for the year ending April 30th, 1873 . . . . .	1122.50
Alfred Hale, for rubber suits . . . . .	39.00
F. O. Dewey, for lanterns and globes. . . . .	7.50
E. C. Nichols, for labor and stock on engine-houses. . . . .	5.60
Amount carried forward . . . . .	<u>\$1331.35</u>

Amount brought forward . . . . .	\$1331.35
Paid P. McCall, for wrench, belts and straps . . . . .	4.30
Hunneman & Co., pole and fitting for engine . . . . .	3.00
F. J. Bancroft, for drawing Hancock Engine to fires . . . . .	4.00
J. C. Cook, for painting . . . . .	15.79
Joseph Huse & Son, for boiler grate . . . . .	.50
W. H. Wentforth & Co., for boiler top . . . . .	4.25
C. H. Lang, Chief Engineer, for firemen's parade . . . . .	100.00
Dennis P. Babb, for drawing engine to fires . . . . .	7.00
Hunneman & Co., for brass hub for engine. . . . .	2.50
N. H. Turner, for setting boiler . . . . .	3.38
H. A. Winship & Co., for sundry articles for engine. . . . .	59.45
E. E. Smith, for services as a member of Hancock Engine . . . . .	6.00
G. W. Atkinson, for oil, can, chamois skin, &c. . . . .	4.14
Lang's Express, for rope for Hancock Engine . . . . .	6.30
F. O. Dewey, for lamp fixtures . . . . .	1.75
J. W. Gleason, for labor and materials on Engine No. 3 . . . . .	5.89
H. E. Cox, for wood . . . . .	2.12
John A. Blunt, for repairs on engines . . . . .	13.55
Brigham & Co., for steel letters . . . . .	1.75
N. W. Broad, for labor on engine-house . . . . .	0.75
Parker & Stone, for oil and can for Hancock Engine . . . . .	2.90
S. N. Stone, for rope for Eagle Engine-house . . . . .	7.70
Lang's Express, for freight, and bills paid . . . . .	14.65
Joseph Breck & Sons, for pulleys for Eagle Engine-house. . . . .	4.00
G. W. Atkinson, for kerosene oil . . . . .	0 13
Samuel Brown, for repair of ladders . . . . .	4.00
T. Littlefield, for water-pot . . . . .	0.75
	<hr/> \$1611.90
APPROPRIATION . . . . .	\$2000.00
Unexpended . . . . .	388.10
	<hr/> \$2000.00

## EXTRA EXPENSES.

Paid James Boyd & Son for hose . . . . .	\$495.00
Dempsey, Legro & Co. " . . . .	1030.95
W. M. Phillips, in part, for building engine house . . . . .	1200.00
	<hr/> 2725.95

The expenses of the Department will be somewhat more the ensuing year, for the reason that ten (10) men have been added to the Hancock Engine Company, and four (4) to the Hook and Ladder Company. The Hook and Ladder Truck



will also need painting, and the Eagle Engine will need a coat of varnish. We therefore recommend that the same sum as last year (\$2,000) be appropriated for the expenses of the Department the ensuing year, one hundred dollars of which shall be expended for the annual fall parade. We also recommend that one hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated for furnishing the new Engine House on Woburn Street.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES H. LANG, *Chief Engineer.*

EDWARD C. NICHOLS,	}	<i>Assistant</i>
DAVID CROWELL,		
T. LITTLEFIELD,		<i>Engineers.</i>
CHARLES H. DANFORTH,		

CHARLES H. DANFORTH, *Clerk.*

READING, March 13, 1874.

**ABATEMENT OF TAXES.**

For 1872 and 1873 . . . . . \$688 11

**STATE-AID ACCOUNT.**

Paid Jules R. Allen . . . . .	\$48 00
Sylvanus Blanchard . . . . .	162 00
Daniel Berry . . . . .	48 00
George W. Carleton . . . . .	18 00
W. W. Davis . . . . .	72 00
Moses F. Eaton . . . . .	80 00
George F. Goodwin . . . . .	48 00
Adam Hetler . . . . .	48 00
L. W. Krook . . . . .	36 00
C. B. Leathe . . . . .	168 00
Benjamin McAllister . . . . .	72 00
William Mears . . . . .	72 00
William A. McDonald . . . . .	40 00
Edwin Manning . . . . .	54 00
Isaac Monroe . . . . .	60 00
Edward E. Nichols . . . . .	88 00
Henry L. Norris . . . . .	60 00
O. C. Pinkham . . . . .	6 00
Tobias Pinkham . . . . .	48 00
John E. Robinson . . . . .	48 00
Charles H. Stevens . . . . .	48 00
George W. Simes . . . . .	122 00
S. N. Weston . . . . .	88 00
Charles O. Young . . . . .	96 00
	<hr/>
	\$1630 00

**SUMMARY OF EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS.****RECEIPTS.**

Received for Schools	(appropriation)	\$8500 00
Ordinary Charges	"	8000 00
Repair of Highways	"	4000 00
Interest	"	4400 00
Fire Department	"	2000 00
Public Library	"	500 00
Removing Public Library	"	250 00
Cemetery	"	500 00
Lobby	"	800 00
Decoration of Soldier's Graves	"	250 00
State Corporation Tax	.	532 79
Massachusetts School Fund	.	197 97
Interest on Taxes and Notes	.	403 12
Dog Licenses	.	105 57
State Aid	.	1934 66
State Tax	.	2880 00
County Tax	.	1640 72
National Bank Tax	.	679 82
Overlay on Taxes	.	1658 94
		<hr/>
		\$39233 59

## EXPENDITURES.

Paid for Schools . . . . .	\$9288 38	
Incidental School Expenses . . . . .	939 04	
Supplies of Almshouse . . . . .	1063 89	
Poor out of the Almshouse . . . . .	1011 48	
to Town Officers . . . . .	1550 30	
for Selectmen's Office . . . . .	196 14	
to Road Commissioners for Repairs of Highways .	3946 14	
" " " Extra Highway Work	1341 27	
Building Cisterns . . . . .	3223 57	
for Land Damages . . . . .	1360 00	
Removing Snow . . . . .	274 47	
Street Lamps . . . . .	257 91	
Miscellaneous . . . . .	1805 91	
to Trustees of Cemetery . . . . .	1210 85	
" Public Library . . . . .	830 59	
for Decoration of Soldiers' Graves . . . . .	250 00	
Printing . . . . .	361 50	
Fire Department . . . . .	1611 90	
Hose for Fire Department . . . . .	1525 95	
Account of New Engine House (in part) . . . . .	1200 00	
Night Watchman . . . . .	538 00	
State Tax . . . . .	2880 00	
County Tax . . . . .	1640 72	
State Aid . . . . .	1630 00	
Abatement of Taxes . . . . .	688 11	
Interest on Town Debt . . . . .	4192 00	
	<hr/>	\$44818 12
Add balance due Trustees of Cemetery . . . . .		140 00
		<hr/>
		\$44958 12
* Deduct paid for Hose for Fire Department . . . . .	\$1525 95	
* " " " Account of New Engine House . . . . .	1200 00	
* " " " " " Cisterns . . . . .	3223 57	
	<hr/>	5949 52
		<hr/>
		\$39008 60
Receipts more than expenses . . . . .		224 99
		<hr/>
		\$39233 59

\* Amounts voted at the August and November meetings, and for which no assessment was made; and showing that amounts voted at meetings subsequent to the annual Town meeting, is the cause of the increase of the Town debt.

## VALUATION FOR 1873.

Valuation of Real Estate, 1873	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,851,695 00
“ Personal “ “	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	254,879 00
Total for 1873	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,106,574 00
“ 1872	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,047,071 00
Gain in 1873	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$59,503 00
Bank Stock having been taken from the Assessors books—being taxed by the State—reduced the valuation of personal property the sum of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24292 00
Which, added to the valuation, would make the gain for the year								\$83795 00

Number of dwelling-houses, May 1, 1873,	598
“ “ polls,	827
“ “ horses,	278
“ “ cows,	271
“ “ oxen,	14
“ “ sheep,	1
“ “ swine,	88
“ “ young stock,	30

CHARLES TWEED, } *Selectmen*  
 NATHAN P. PRATT, } *of*  
 W. J. WIGHTMAN, } *Reading.*

READING, March 1, 1874.

**Dr.**

JAMES A. BANCROFT, *Treasurer and Collector*, in Account with the TOWN OF READING.

**Cr.**

To Balance in Treasury, March 1st, 1873	.	.	\$6205 93	By Paying Selectmen's orders	.	.	.	\$36130 40
Cash of John Batchelder's Executors	.	.	546 43	" Town Debt	.	.	.	12995 02
State Aid	.	.	1934 66	" Interest	.	.	.	4192 00
Corporation Tax	.	.	532 79	" State Tax	.	.	.	2880 00
National Bank Tax	.	.	679 82	" County Tax	.	.	.	1640 72
School Fund	.	.	197 97	" Board of Frank Nichols at State Reform	.	.	.	13 00
Hired Money	.	.	19258 35	" School	.	.	.	
Interest	.	.	85 50	" Board of Daniel Sullivan at State Reform	.	.	.	26 00
Discount on County Tax	.	.	24 60	" School	.	.	.	
Interest on Taxes	.	.	367 62					<hr/>
Insurance Dividend	.	.	2 85	Balance in Treasury of—				\$57877 14
Dog License	.	.	105 57	Uncollected Taxes for 1872	.	.	\$245 96	
Taxes after being abated	.	.	110 35	" " 1873	.	.	6206 40	
Jonathan Heselton's note	.	.	115 00	S. Harnden's note	.	.	425 00	
Tax list for collection	.	.	35479 66	J. Heselton's note	.	.	115 00	
			<hr/>	Cash.	.	.	727 60	
			\$65597 10				<hr/>	7719 96
								<hr/>
								\$65597 10

READING, March 2, 1874.

JAMES A. BANCROFT,  
*Treasurer and Collector.*



# AUDITORS' REPORT,

FOR YEAR ENDING FEB. 28, 1874.

## LIABILITIES.

The Town owes notes amounting to . . . . .	\$69677 17	
Interest computed to March 1, 1874 . . . . .	1125 79	
	<u>          </u>	\$70802 96
Amount due Fire Department estimated at . . . . .	1000 00	
Miscellaneous debts . . . . .	200 00	
	<u>          </u>	1200 00
		<u>          </u>
		\$72002 96

## AVAILABLE ASSETS.

J. Heselton's note . . . . .	\$115 00	
S. Harnden's note, balance . . . . .	425 00	
Interest on same . . . . .	15 51	
Unpaid taxes . . . . .	6452 36	
Cash in hands of Treasurer . . . . .	727 60	
	<u>          </u>	7735 47
Net amount of Town debt . . . . .		\$64267 49

## SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Town farm, valued at . . . . .	\$4000 00	
Personal property at Almshouse . . . . .	2771 29	
	<u>          </u>	\$6771 29
Cemetery, land and lots . . . . .	2635 83	
Hearse, estimated worth . . . . .	200 00	
Hearse house . . . . .	75 00	
	<u>          </u>	2910 83
Eagle fire engine and hose carriage . . . . .	700 00	
“ “ house and cistern . . . . .	500 00	
Hancock fire engine and hose carriage . . . . .	500 00	
“ “ houses . . . . .	1300 00	
Washington fire engine . . . . .	200 00	
“ “ house . . . . .	40 00	
Union fire engine . . . . .	50 00	
Hook and ladder carriage, etc. . . . .	400 00	
“ “ house . . . . .	80 00	
Furniture in engine houses and new hose . . . . .	1550 00	
	<u>          </u>	5320 00
Amount carried forward . . . . .		\$15002 12



Amount brought forward	.	.	.	\$15002 12
Iron safe in Selectmen's office	.	.	.	50 00
Furniture in " "	.	.	.	350 00
				<hr/> 400 00
School-houses and furniture	.	.	.	33000 00
Public Library and furniture	.	.	.	2500 00
Piano in High School, and philosophical apparatus	.	.	.	700 00
				<hr/> 36200 00
Amount due from State for aid furnished soldiers	.	.	.	1700 00
				<hr/> \$53302 12

We have examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer for the year ending February 28, 1874, and find the same correct and properly vouched.

HIRAM BARRUS,  
 SOLON BANCROFT, } *Auditors.*  
 ANDREW HOWES, }

READING, March 24, 1874.

**BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.**

## BIRTHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1873.

Date.	Names.	Sex.	Names of Parents.	Occupation of Father.
Jan. 2,	Lynn,	M.	Andrew J. and Joan F.	Clerk.
" 17,	Mabel Florence Richardson,	F.	David G. and Susan M.	Cabinet maker.
" 27,	Sidney Maunings,	M.	Edwin and Frankie H.	Cabinet manufacturer.
" 30,	Lettie Sabrina Litchfield,	F.	Hiram and Arvesta F.	Stabler.
" 31,	Jennie Maria Kidder,	"	Sarah Kidder,	
Feb. 13,	B. Paul Clark,	M.	Joshua and Hannah C.	Bank cashier.
" 19,	Walter Lambertus Brook,	"	Lambertus W. and Sophia F.	Cabinet maker.
" 27,	Addie Doucette,	F.	Felix and Mary,	Carpenter.
" 27,	Stone,	M.	Chase T. and	Engineer.
" 28,	Stella Adams,	F.	Oliver S. and Martha A.	Mechanic.
March 4,	Ethel May Durgin,	"	William F. and Adaline M.	Journalist.
March 14,	Frank B. Wight, } Twins,	M.		
" 14,	Albert O. Wight, }	"	Ephraim and Helen,	Carpenter,
April 6,	Arthur Kimball Heselson,	M.	Richmond and Lizzie M.	Cabinet maker.
" 9,	Wilfred Hawes,	"	Jabez S. and Marietta,	Merchant.
" 11,	Willfred Abner Baneroff,	"	William H. and Sarah A.	Painter.
" 20,	Frank Oscar Channell,	"	Daniel C. and Phebe A.	Mechanic.
" 20,	Hawes,	"	Newell and Juliet H.	Merchant.
" 28,	Joseph Harrington,	"	Edward B. and Helen L.	Merchant.
May 1,	William John Milliken,	"	William J. and Ellen,	Turner.
" 2,	Chester Cole Kingman,	"	Melvin and Augusta E.	Cabinet maker.
" 7,	Willie Earnest Brown,	"	H. Walter and Ella H.	Clerk.
" 9,	Graham,	F.	John	
" 9,	Laura M. Littlefield,	"	Elmer H. and Susan F.	Tallow chandler.
" 13,	May Louise Temple,	"	Joseph S. and Lucia M.	Merchant.
" 17,	Grace Appleton Beecher,	"	David U. and Eliza L.	Moulder.
" 19,	Ardele Palmer Temple,	"	Warren K. and Annie M.	Mechanic.
" 26,	Evans,	"	Thomas A. and Esther A.	Teamster.
June 1,	White,	"		Laborer.
" 5,	Blanche Gleason Perkins,	"	Walter H. and Laura M.	Clerk.
" 6,	Lilla Beard,	"		
" 9,	Mary L. Hewes,	"	Moses and Emma,	
" 13,	Arthur James Davie,	M.	W. Wallace and Susar M.	Civil Engineer.
" 23,	John F. Messer, } Twins,	"		
" 23,	Freddie Messer,	"	Charles and Emily A.	Railroad conductor.
" 30,	Grace Fields Burnham,	F.	Charles C. and Georgiana C.	Shoe cutter.
July 8,	Edward Spaulding Webber,	M.	Sherebiah S. and Arsanah,	Farmer.
" 11,	Porter,	M.	Simon and Judith,	Mechanic.
" 28,	Grace Viola Baneroff,	F.	Albert J. and Sarah J.	Carpenter.
Aug. 14,	Richard Haven Nichols,	M.	Richard B. and Josephine A.	Farmer.
" 26,	Abbie Sarah Todd,	F.	Thomas R. and Abbie S.	Bookkeeper.
" 27,	Marion Louise Warren,	"	John P. and Clara J.	Organ pipe maker.
Sept. 3,	Marion Alice Parker,	"	George A. and Ellen I.	Commission merchant.
" 5,	Louisa Florence Lloyd,	"	Alfred H. and Luella R.	Mechanic.
" 12,	William Stanwood Phillips,	M.	William M. and Mary R.	Carpenter.
" 14,	Edith Louise Swain,	F.	Charles H. and Emma M.	Shoe cutter.
" 15,	Marion Perkins Copeland,	"	Edward and Crissie C.	Clerk.
" 18,	Blanche Edwina Robinson,	"	Henry and Mary H.	Merchant.
" 19,	La Clair,	"	William and Mary H.	Shoe Cutter.
" 23,	Charles Almond Frost,	M.	Joseph B. and Augusta A.	Paper agent.
" 27,	Caroline Elizabeth Hill,	F.	Nathaniel E. and Caroline G.	Farmer.
Oct. 9,	Amie Warner Dean,	"	George W. and Maria F.	Carpenter.
" 9,	Elmore Colby Temple,	M.	David C. and Maria A.	"
" 12,	Perey Thomas,	"	Charles D. and E. Josephine,	Custom House.
" 18,	Ira C. Gray, Jr.,	"	Ira C. and Ellen M.	Merchant.
" 20,	Charles William Parker,	M.	Horace A. and Ellura J.	Cabinet maker.
" 25,	Mabel Temple,	F.	William H. and Ruth A.	Auctioneer.
" 27,	Belle Galbraith Randall,	"	Hiram G. and Eliza,	Tallow chandler.
" 28,	Marion Edna Parker,	"	Galen A. and Edna S.	Clerk.
Nov. 3,	Edith Wakefield,	"	Charles and Mary A.	Farmer.
" 7,	Franky R. A. Brown,	M.	James R. A. and Lizzie,	Storekeeper.
" 11,	Gertie Louise Friend, } Twins,	F.		
" 11,	Grace Maria Friend,	"	William D. and Emma A.	Farmer.
" 12,	Almira Eveline Totten,	"	Robert C. and Mary A.	Blacksmith.
" 18,	Symmes,	"	Frank H. and Sarah J.	Organ builder.
" 26,	Sideling,	"		
" 28,	John William Austin,	M.		
" 28,	Walter Justin Austin,	"	Oliver W. and Abby E.	Machinist.
Dec. 17,	Frederick Clinton Emerson,	"	Albert F. and Mary A.	Farmer.
" 22,	Freddie Parker,	"	Thomas A. and Sarah A.	Cabinet maker.
" 28,	Grace Badger Parker,	F.	Walter S. and Belle M.	Teacher.
" 30,	Ethel Gertrude Temple,	"	Jonathan and Fannie E.	Salesman.
" 30,	Annie Augusta Dewey,	"	Francis H. and Augusta T.	Clerk.

Whole number of Births in Reading in 1873

Males . . . . . 31

Females . . . . . 40

71

## NATIVITY OF PARENTS.

United States . . . . .	Father, 52	Mother, . . . . .	52
Foreign . . . . .	" 9	" . . . . .	9

## DEATHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1873.

Date.	Names.	Age.		Names of Parents or Husband.	Cause.
		Y.	M. D.		
Jan. 24,	George E. Symmes,	3		Frank H. and Sarah J.	Cerebrospinal meningitis
Feb. 15,	B. Paul Clark,	2		Joshua and Hannah C.	
" 17,	George E. Pitman,	25	5 17		Consumption.
March 2,	Charles Randall,	35	9 11	Hiram and Maria,	"
April 9,	Hawes,			Jabez and Mary E.	
" 11,	William Parker,	71	9 11	Aaron and Jerusha,	Apoplexy.
" 16,	Nathaniel Batchelder,	87	14	Nathaniel and	"
" 20,	Hawes,			Newell B. and Juliet,	Stillborn.
" 30,	Henry Baker,	44	6	Joseph D. and Eliza,	White swelling.
May 13,	Asahel Porter,	72		Asahel and Elizabeth,	General paralysis.
" 17,	Harriet N. Pinkham,	58		Aaron and Jerusha (McIntire)	Chronic dysentery.
" 19,	Sylvester Harnden,	69	7 3	Augustus and Mary,	Consumption,
" 26,	Michael Daley,	45			Effects of a fall.
" 28,	Samuel Poor,	72		Samuel and Mary,	Consumption of blood.
June 3,	Franklin Buck,	70	10 11	Ephraim and Dorcas,	Apoplexy.
" 8,	Charles Cogswell,	73	3 20	Thomas and Judith,	Consumption.
" 29,	Annie A. Gray,	2	6 5	Ira C. and Ellen M.	Inflammation of brain.
July 8,	Thomas E. Prescott,	59	10	Joshua and Abigail,	Paralysis.
" 9,	Lydia B. Lewis,	58	4 24	Jarmel and Mary (Clapp),	Chronic brain disease.
" 16,	Rose Carley,	82			Accidental.
" 20,	Louis V. Charlebois,	45	4 29		Consumption.
" 21,	Frank D. Piersons,	17	8	Levi and Lucretia,	Phthisis.
" 26,	J. Marston Woodbridge,	77	5 13	Dudley and Sarah,	Gangrene of foot.
Aug. 6,	Laura M. Littlefield,	2	27	Elmer H. and Francis,	Cholera infantum.
" 7,	Thomas S. Symonds,	46		Obed	Diabetes.
" 11,	Arthur J. Norris,	1	3	James T. and Catherine,	Cholera infantum.
" 20,	Abby J. Heselon,	27	25	Jonathan and Abigail V.	Consumption.
" 23,	John F. Messer,	2		Charles and Emily A.	Marasmus.
" 24,	Mary D. Buxton,	73	6	Joseph and Patience (Damon),	Dysentery.
" 27,	Willie F. Fletcher,	23	4 14	Franklin and Sarah,	Consumption.
" 29,	Mary Dean,	90		James and Hannah (Willey),	Old age.
Sept. 2,	Frank C. Bancroft,	10	5 2	James and Sarah,	Fever.
" 4,	Ada E. Potter,	1	9 21	Hanson B. and Elizabeth E.	Consumption.
" 5,	Lilla Beard,	2	28		Diarrhea.
" 13,	Lizzie C. Eames,	23	7 1	Jacob and Rachel U.	Typhoid fever.
" 19,	Thomas C. Day,	52	9 2	Benjamin and Mary B.	Epilepsy.
Oct. 2,	Freddie Messer,	3	9	Charles and Emily A.	Hydrocephalus.
" 3,	Ada Steens,	78	6 30	Elias and Susan (Hatch),	Old age.
" 13,	Selina Cheney,	62	7 30	Sumner Cheney,	Dysentery.
" 16,	Lizzie N. Rahr,	32	7 5	Christian Rahr,	Consumption.
" 23,	Carrie M. Sherman,	7	9	John P. and Mary A.	"
" 29,	Albert J. Mears,	10	3	Joshua and Almira,	Marasmus.
Nov. 8,	Henry L. Norris,	33	11 19	Lewis and Mary,	Consumption.
" 9,	Thomas H. Sweetser.	70	1 19	Ezra and Nancy,	Cancer.
" 12,	Mary L. Hewes,	6	3	Moses and Emma,	Consumption of bowels.
" 13,	George Swan,	66	11 9	Timothy and Mary,	General paralysis.
" 18,	Nancy Wakefield,	79	27	Caleb Wakefield,	Paralysis.
Dec. 6,	Lois Leathers,	69	5 1	Samuel and Sophia (Stacy),	Bright's disease.
" 6,	Abbie Finnegan,	43		John and Polly (Gilpin),	Heart disease.
" 18,	Henry H. Damon,	40	7	Etson and Mary A.	Enlargement of liver.
" 25,	Nancy C. Murray,	66		Ivory Murray,	Apoplexy.
" 29,	Freddie Parker,		7	Thomas A. and Sarah A.	Mal. development.

Whole number of Deaths in Reading in 1873	.	.	.	.	.	52
Males	.	.	.	.	.	33
Females	.	.	.	.	.	19

## NATIVITY.

United States	.	.	.	.	.	.	47
Foreign	.	.	.	.	.	.	5

# MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN READING IN 1873.

Date.	Name of Groom and Bride.	Age.	Residence.	Occupation of Groom.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents.	By whom Married.
Jan. 1,	Ardene Parker,	21	Reading,	Merchant,	Reading,	W. Spencer and Eliza J.	Rev. E. A. Whittier.
" 9,	Frances A. Scott,	23	Reading,	Mechanic,	Andover,	Joshua H. and Adaline S.	Rev. William Barrows.
" 9,	Charles F. Sanborn,	23	Webster, N. H.		Webster, N. H.	John B. and Rebecca,	Rev. Ira G. Ridlon.
" 18,	Jane E. Colby,	26	Salisbury, N. H.	Carpenter,	Salisbury, N. H.	Ira G. and Mary M.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
Feb. 1,	Alfred B. Ridlon,	24	Reading,	Cabinet maker,	Durham, Me.	George W. and Mary M.	Rev. C. F. H. Feck.
" 4,	Mary Agnes Goodwin,	18	Reading,	Cabinet maker,	Germany,	William H. and Maria M.	Rev. J. J. Jones.
" 20,	Henry Stock,	23	Reading,	Mechanic,	Germany,	Lorens and Kate,	Rev. William H. Willcox.
" 30,	Ada Beard,	17	Reading,	Salesman,	Germany,	John C. and Eliza,	Rev. John N. Short.
April 2,	Henry Hock,	20	Reading,	Mail carrier,	Germany,	John C. and Sarah A.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
May 7,	Caroline Kious,	40	Wakefield,	Shoe manufacturer,	Andover,	Horace and Caroline E.	Rev. Henry S. Kelsey.
" 30,	Howard P. Nichols,	24	Reading,	Mason,	Stoneham,	Cyrenus C. and Rebecca,	Rev. C. S. Rogers.
" 20,	Sarah M. Lewis,	21	Norway, Me.	Carpenter,	Waterford, Me.	Hezekiah and Mary,	Rev. E. B. Fairchild.
June 10,	John Henry Stone,	23	Reading,	Mechanic,	Salem,	David and Eliza,	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
" 25,	Carrie A. Cummings,	30	Reading,	Box maker,	No. Reading,	Patrick and Ann,	W. H. Fitzpatrick (Priest).
July 2,	Charles H. McIntire,	23	Reading,	Teamster,	Nova Scotia,	Francis and Jane F.	Rev. Luther D. Hill.
" 3,	Rebecca H. Nelson,	23	Reading,	Salesman,	Greenwich, Ct.	Alvan and Mary C.	Rev. Asa Bullard.
" 24,	John F. Cook,	23	Reading,	Farmer,	Woburn,	Richard and Olivia,	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
" 30,	Phebe A. Hetler,	19	Reading,	Teacher,	Woburn,	Abner and Abby,	Rev. —. Hale.
" 20,	Charles K. Turner,	22	Reading,	Shoe manufacturer,	Bridgton, Me.	William and Lucy W.	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
June 10,	Hattie A. Tweed,	23	Reading,		Malden,	Daniel and —,	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
" 25,	Horace F. Proctor,	25	Reading,		No. Newburyport,	Elbridge and Abby S.	
July 2,	Frederick E. Dedean,	24	Reading,		Wilmington,	Edward and Eliza J.	
" 3,	Laura A. Littlefield,	21	Reading,		Boston,	David N. and Abby,	
" 24,	Charles E. Harnden,	23	Hopkinton,		Reading,	Francis and Ann,	
Aug. 4,	Warren M. Phipps,	23	Reading,		Canada,	Alvan and Jane F.	
" 20,	Lucy J. Pratt,	21	Reading,		Canada,	Richard and Mary C.	
" 24,	Ann J. McCall,	21	Reading,		Canada,	Joseph and Susan,	
" 30,	Howard M. Sturdivant,	26	Boston,		Canada,	Thaddeus and Serena,	
" 20,	Clara J. Waldron,	25	Boston,		Canada,	Abner and Abby,	
" 20,	Franklin E. Bulward,	25	Boston,		Canada,	William and Lucy W.	
" 20,	Ellen B. Baldwin,	23	Boston,		Canada,	Daniel and —,	
" 20,	Francis A. Morse,	23	Boston,		Canada,	Jason and Caroline M.	
" 20,	Sarah W. Richardson,	23	Boston,		Canada,	Elbridge and Abby S.	
" 20,	Alfred W. Danforth,	23	Boston,		Canada,		
" 20,	Alice A. Eaton,	23	Boston,		Canada,		
" 20,	Jason W. Richardson,	23	Boston,		Canada,		
" 20,	Mary C. Harnden,	23	Boston,		Canada,		



Sept. 18,	22	Charles L. Nichols,	Reading,	Butcher,	Wilmington,	Tyverett E. and Sarah,	Rev. J. W. Kingsbury.
Oct. 1	25	Sarah A. Putnam,	No. Reading,	Teacher,	No. Reading,	Henry and Lizzie,	Rev. —. Hill.
"	32	Edward B. Young,	Reading,		Chelmsford,	Edward and Harriet E.	Rev. J. J. Miller.
"	24	Ella L. Bird,	Boston,	Organ builder,	Reading,	— and Sarah H.	Rev. A. S. Gardiner.
"	15	Arthur C. Copeland,	Westfield,	Harness maker,	Charlestown,	Elbridge and Ruth B.	Rev. John N. Short.
"	22,	Mary Ida Cook,	Reading,		Waltham,	Charles and Sarah B.	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
"	35	Charles C. Crosby,	Waltham,	R. R. Agent,	Newton,	Nathan and Serena H.	Rev. John N. Short.
"	23,	Ann Lizzie Crafts,	Reading,	Mechanic,	Gardiner, Me.	Joseph C. and Lucy W.	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
"	29	John Atkins,	Milwaukee, Wis.		Danvers,	— and Mary A.	Rev. John N. Short.
"	24	Julia A. Brann,	Reading,	Expressman,	Boxborough,	Ebenezer and Isabel,	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
"	30,	Eugene Berry,	Wakefield,	Farmer,	Manchester, N. H.	David T. and Tryphena,	Rev. John N. Short.
Nov. 6,	19	Sarah J. Beesie,	Reading,	Farmer,	Wakefield,	Dennis P. and Elizabeth,	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
"	22	Henry D. Babb,	Wakefield,		Bridge-water, N. H.	Andrew and —,	Rev. William H. Willcox.
"	12,	Mary E. Young,	Reading,	Farmer,	Reading,	Joseph and Abigail,	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
"	40	Moses Morse,	Reading,	Painter,	Scarsport, Me.	Reuben and Clarissa E.	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
"	29	Augusta M. Weston,	Searsport, Me.	Photographer,	Lincolnville, Me.	Benjamin and Theodate S.	Rev. Wm. A. Thompson.
"	26	Elizabeth A. Barrows,	Reading,		No. Reading,	John H. and Margaret,	Rev. A. S. Gardiner.
"	24,	Adelbert C. McIntire,	Reading,		Brooklyn, N. Y.	Amos and Mary,	
"	26,	Almira E. Bancroft,	Reading,		Reading,	James and Sarah,	
Dec. 31,	23	James E. Bennett,	Reading,		Reading,	Joseph B. and Catherine A.	
	31	Sarah E. Hartshorn,	Reading,			Benjamin and Sarah E.	

Whole number of Marriages Registered in 1873. . . . . 31

# NATIVITY OF PERSONS MARRIED.

	Males.	Females.
United States . . . . .	23	28
Foreign . . . . .	3	3





ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OF THE  
TOWN OF READING  
FOR 1873-74.



## REPORT.

---

The general interest in the Library continues, the number of our patrons steadily increases, and we think that our citizens now consider it a necessity. As intimated in our last Report, the School Committee having represented to the Town that the whole of the High School building was needed for school purposes, the Town in April last, instructed the Trustees to procure new quarters for the Library. After looking over the various rooms that were offered, the Trustees decided that, for general convenience and central location, the hall over Mr. C. W. Perkins's shop on Woburn Street, near Main Street, was the most desirable for the purposes of the Library, and made an arrangement with Mr. Perkins to fit the room for the purpose by putting in gas, heating apparatus, etc., and leased it at an annual rental of one hundred and fifty dollars, including fuel and lighting.

They consider this sum very reasonable for the amount of room and location, and the new premises appear to give general satisfaction to the public. As it was necessary to have the shelving, etc., fitted to the new room, and other changes made, it was not ready for occupancy till July 7th.

The books and other property of the Library were moved to the new location during the summer vacation, and systematically arranged. The Library was reopened to the public August 7th.

Early in the year, the Trustees received with regret the resignation of Miss Mattie H. Appleton, who had faithfully served as Librarian from the establishment of the Library, a period of more than five years.

We take pleasure in testifying to her rare tact and efficiency, and her unvarying courtesy and obliging manner of performing the various duties devolving upon her in this position, and we think the patrons of the Library will fully endorse us in this testimony.

Miss Appleton consented to remain till after the annual examination and removal. The Trustees were fortunately able to secure the services of Miss Alice B. Temple as Librarian, who proves a worthy successor to Miss Appleton, and the Library is now in every way in a flourishing condition.

From the report of the Librarian, July 26, 1873, we submit the following abstract :

At the opening of the Library after the examination, August 7th, 1872, the whole number of volumes was 2,908, of which 402 volumes were duplicates.

## I N C R E A S E .

	Vols.
Added since, by donation from Mercantile Library of	
New York . . . . .	1
Chas. Reiche & Co. . . . .	1
7th-Day Adventist Tract Society . . . . .	1
Edward Appleton . . . . .	4
Hon. N. P. Banks . . . . .	7
F. O. Dewey, Esq. . . . .	115
Mrs. M. Willis . . . . .	1
State of Massachusetts . . . . .	5
Lotan Parker . . . . .	7
Anna E. Appleton . . . . .	2
<hr/>	
Total donations to July, 1873 . . . . .	144
We have added by purchase . . . . .	185
<hr/>	
Making total increase for the year . . . . .	329

## D E C R E A S E .

Worn out	1871	.	.	.	.	.	8
“	1872	.	.	.	.	.	7
“	1873	.	.	.	.	.	16
Not Returned	1870	.	.	.	.	.	1
“ “	1871	.	.	.	.	.	2
Burned	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Duplicates Exchanged.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22
							<hr/>
Total decrease since commencement	.	.	.	.	.	.	58
Number Volumes, July 26, 1873	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,179
of which are duplicates	.	.	.	.	.	.	384
							<hr/>
Actual number in circulation	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,795

## C I R C U L A T I O N .

Cards issued	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,254
Increase over 1872	.	.	.	.	.	.	144
Volumes taken out	.	.	.	.	.	.	14,671
Increase over 1872	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,461
of which circulation are Works of Fiction	.	.	.	.	.	.	8,984
Increase over 1872	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,368
Juveniles	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,687
Increase over 1872	.	.	.	.	.	.	630
All other subjects	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,000
Decrease from 1872	.	.	.	.	.	.	537
Retained at Examination	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Since returned	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Missing July 26th	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Fines incurred	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$81.50
“ paid	.	.	.	.	.	.	69.43
“ due	.	.	.	.	.	.	12.07
Books re-bound since last examination	.	.	.	.	.	.	166

We have subscribed for the “Scientific American” and “Literary World.” Our thanks are due to the publishers of Reading Chronicle for files, also Boston Public Library for Report and

Bulletins, Mercantile Library of New York, Holton Library of Brighton, Public Libraries of Manchester, N. H., Wakefield, Woburn, Medford, and Quincy, for Reports; and to the various individuals who have donated us books. We think especial mention should be made of the generosity of F. O. Dewey, Esq., who has given us a complete set of "Littell's Living Age," one hundred and fifteen volumes in all, which we consider a very valuable addition to our Library. Since August, 1873, we have received donations from Miss Anna E. Appleton, 2 vols.; Seventh Day Adventist Tract Society, 1 vol.; Henry Deadman, 3 vols.

#### EXPENSE OF FITTING UP NEW ROOMS.

D. Creasy, carpenter work . . . . .	\$133.32
J. Reid & Co., curtains . . . . .	6.38
M. Hanley, chairs . . . . .	9.00
M. H. Garfield, sign . . . . .	2.25
H. D. Babb, teaming . . . . .	6.00
Cummings Express . . . . .	1.90
<hr/>	
Total . . . . .	\$158.85

We have received the back numbers of the "Reading Chronicle," which we wanted very much to complete our files, from Miss Addie Weston, Miss Alberto Smith, and Mr. William H. Bancroft, for which they will accept our thanks. For other works needed to complete sets, and list of missing books, see last year's report.

During the past year, the New England Numismatic and Archæological Society have commenced the publication in numbers, of a work entitled "The Early Coins of America, and the Laws Governing their Issue, the first patterns of the U. S. Mint, etc." As the edition is limited to but about two hundred copies, it will be likely to soon become rare, and as it deals with its subject in an historical as well as descriptive manner, your Secretary has taken the liberty to donate it to the Library; six numbers are thus far published.



To continue the usefulness of the Library, the Trustees recommend the usual appropriation by the Town of five hundred dollars, and also the sum of two hundred dollars for rent, fuel, and contingent expenses.

The Trustees expect to issue the coming season a supplementary catalogue, which will be sold with the catalogue already published. We hope to increase the number of our donations the coming year.

The Trustees learn with regret that some of the younger patrons do not exercise the care of the books that they should while they are in their possession, and some of the books are found to be needlessly damaged by tearing, and leaves being lost, etc. As it impossible, when books are returned, for the Librarian to specially examine each book, owing to the number waiting to be served, we shall be obliged, if more care is not used, to adopt a rule in force in several Public Libraries, of charging the damage to the person to whom the book is charged when the damage is discovered, which we dislike to do; and we hope that this hint will be sufficient, and that every one will "use all books carefully."

It will be necessary for the Town, at the approaching Town meeting, to choose two Trustees, to fill vacancies caused by the expiration of the terms of Stephen Foster, and F. H. Knight.

Hoping for the continued interest and liberal patronage of all our citizens in the Reading Public Library, we are,

Respectfully,

EDWARD APPLETON,	}	<i>Trustees.</i>
F. O. DEWEY,		
HIRAM BARRUS,		
WILLIAM PROCTOR,		
STEPHEN FOSTER,		
FRANCIS H. KNIGHT,		

E. APPLETON, *President.*

F. H. KNIGHT, *Secretary.*



Dr.

## F. H. KNIGHT, Treasurer, in Account with READING PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Cr.

1873. Aug. 6	Received from	Town Treasurer, on acc. Appropriation - " M. H. Appleton, Librarian, balance in hands " Feb. 22 - - - \$0.97 " for catalogues sold - - - 1.25 " chimneys, 20 cts., 1 doz. wicks, 10 cts. - 0.30 " old books and paper - - - 2.10 " fines to August 6th - - - 37.78	\$500.00	1873. March 15 July 18 Aug. 9	Balance due Treasurer (see last Report) - Paid A. R. Gay, for stationery - - - " Cummings, Express - - - " M. D. Garfield, for sign - - - " H. D. Babb, moving books, &c. - - - " H. G. Terry, binding - - - " James Reid & Co., curtains - - - " M. Hanley, chairs - - - " D. Crecsey, fitting up room - - - " M. H. Appleton, examination, arranging books, &c. - - - " extra work - - - " M. H. Appleton, salary - - - " " " extra work - - - " Express, \$2.00, postage, 60 cts. - - - " Subscription Literary World - - - " Extra copy - - - " Two pine boxes - - - " Hammer, \$1.25, pitcher, 83 cts.; duster, 12 cts., " Amount to new Librarian - - -	\$5.97 9.00 1.90 2.25 6.00 109.40 6.38 9.00 133.32 39.80
Oct'r 10	from Town Treasurer, bal. Appropriation -	-	42.40	"	"	
" 10	" " " Dog Tax, 1872. -	-	250.00	"	"	
Nov'r 18	" " Miss Clara Damon, for binding books -	-	80.59	"	"	
March 7	" " Miss Alice B. Temple, Librarian, for bal. ancee paid her by Miss Appleton -	-	1.85	"	"	\$33.25
	" " for fines to March 7, 1874 -	-		"	"	0.44
	" " catalogues sold -	-		"	"	2.60
	Balance due Treasurer -	-	37.32	"	"	1.00
			10.44	"	"	0.25
				"	"	2.00
				"	"	2.20
				"	"	0.66
			\$922.60	"	"	
				Oct. 11	"	42.40
				" 11	"	241.37
				" 29	"	52.29
				Nov. 18	"	22.25
				1874.	"	62.65
				Jan. 22	"	3.00
				" 22	"	35.00
				Feb. 24	"	3.50
				March 7	"	
				"	"	
				" 7	"	
				" 7	"	
				" 14	"	
					"	37.32
					"	100.00
						\$922.60

READING, March 16, 1874.

F. H. KNIGHT, Treasurer.

# REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE.

---

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Amount due the Committee on last year's account	.	\$75 98	
Paid for labor in Cemetery	. . . . .	471 87	
“ for building wall on Main Street	. . . . .	787 00	
		<hr/>	\$1334 85
Drawn from Town appropriations	. . . . .	1210 85	
Received from sale of lots	. . . . .	116 00	
“ “ “ wood	. . . . .	8 00	
		<hr/>	\$1334 85

F. O. DEWEY,  
F. H. KNIGHT,  
T. B. PRATT,  
G. C. GLEASON,  
WM. PROCTOR,  
S. BANCROFT.

READING, March, 1874.



## REPORT OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

---

Two years have elapsed since the Town placed the control of the roads in our hands. We found them in many places in bad condition. The places that in our judgment was most needed, have been repaired first, with few exceptions, where we have obtained gravel by gift or at a small expense. The Town appropriated last year the sum of \$4000 for the repairs of Highways, and there has been expended \$3946.14, leaving a balance of \$53.96. We would recommend that the Town raise the sum of \$3,500, for that purpose, for the year ensuing. The prosperity of the Town depends very much upon the condition of its roads.

There has been expended for extra highway work	-	\$298	63
For rebuilding High Street	- - - - -	425	94
“ “ Green “	- - - - -	286	70
“ grading Bancroft Avenue	- - - - -	330	00
<hr/>			
\$1341 27			

We would recommend that the Town cause flag-stones to be laid across Main and Haven Streets at the junction of said streets, and at the junction of Haven and Gould Streets, and across High Street at the junction of Haven Street, and that the Town raise the sum of \$500 for that purpose.

By a law of the Legislature of 1873-4, it becomes the duty of the Road Commissioners to make a report on guide-boards. The guide-boards are up in most places where they have been established, but some of them need repairing. The street signs that have been erected are nearly all gone. We would recommend that the Town raise \$75 to repair guide-boards and erect street signs.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES TWEED,	}	<i>Road Commissioners of Reading.</i>
JAMES A. BANCROFT,		
CHARLES A. WESTON,		

READING, March 2, 1874.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TOWN OF READING  
FOR 1873-74.





## REPORT.

---

The adoption, during the past year, of a course of studies for all the schools, made it imperative that no promotions should be made at the commencement of the school year, last September ; but this involved but little, if any, disadvantage to the pupils, for the grade of the schools was advanced, and the time to be spent in the High School, before graduation, reduced to three years, for an English course—a classical one being optional.

It will require a year or two before the full benefit of a complete curriculum will be realized, the aim of the Committee, as expressed in the last Annual Report, still being “ to prepare the youth of the community for the battles of life—not letters.”

That the education of children, passing through the routine of our public schools, is sadly deficient, we think few will deny ; that they do not receive that amount of real practical learning which they should receive to properly compensate for the time and labor spent, none know better than the graduates themselves.

Where is the fault? Certainly not in the teachers, as a rule ; for they carry out what is laid down for them. Perhaps it is in the Committee ; but the Committee have been accustomed to follow the lead of the State, and the State of Massachusetts *thinks* it educates its young people better than any State in the world, and even takes prizes for its system. We are inclined, from our humble position, to surmise that the trouble here, as well as throughout the State, lies in the ardor and almost

pathetic fervor with which we have sought to give a full and broad education to every one — the grand idea of a democratic republican country ! — taking it for granted, that *all* could and would begin with the primary school, and carefully take every step forward and upward, till the young lady selected her graduating dress, and the young man learned to give his cravat the most approved tie, for the exhibition ; — and so the Massachusetts system says, we must not drop any of the branches which attracted, and formed part of the education of, our ancestors, but must keep all the old paths open, and walk in all the new, besides. And here, perhaps, is the chief difficulty : either our pupils study too much, or not enough ; for it is indisputably true that, as a rule, they do not know a great deal about the many things they *do* study. We undertake to cover so much ground, that the ambitious youth is very thin after being spread over it all. We do not insist upon thoroughness in any thing, but like a smattering of every thing.

Any system of public education must of necessity have a great deal of routine work ; and while this is so, to whom shall the routine of our schools be adapted, — to the few who desire to study the classics, leading minds, to be found in every school, sharp, active brains, always at work, and fitted for it, or to the masses, the hundreds who must depend upon the learning acquired in the public schools, where most of them lay the foundation, not only for their life education, but for their life work ? We unhesitatingly pronounce in favor of the latter course, and are doing all in our power to accomplish the desired result. The Town and the State, in our humble opinion, have reached that point in the history of its educational work, when a radical change must be made, or education itself will suffer, and the standard of generally diffused intelligence be lowered.

We have not one word to say against the value or the desirability of a classical education ; but if something *must* be left out, we believe the study of the dead languages should lose its place first, modern languages next, and ornamental English studies last. On no account have we a right to sacrifice the welfare of the many to the desire of the few. We wish the

Town was rich enough to give *all* a broad, English, and classical education — all who are capable of receiving it; but as this cannot be, and as but a small number desire it, it seems to us there is but one course open: adopt less branches, and seek more thoroughness; for the man who knows one thing well, is better educated than the graduate of a dozen colleges, who is thorough in nothing.

## OUR SCHOOLS.

Under our system, the schools in Town are doing good work, and compare most favorably with those of other Towns. With, as a rule, a fine corps of teachers, the members of the various departments have progressed with commendable results.

Music has, during the past year, been introduced into all the schools, and the value of it, other than in an aesthetic sense, has been great; the teachers, without exception, testify to the generally improved condition of their schools, through the practice in singing. We think the Town will not regret the expenditure necessary to carry on this part of the system.

But few changes have taken place, as regards teachers; but changes will be rapid unless we can render the teachers, who have given the Town valuable service, a more adequate compensation. Three hundred and fifty dollars is a meagre salary for one who must find her entire support in that sum, and it is time, in the lower schools especially, that salaries be increased. To this end we do not hesitate to ask of the Town an increased appropriation, believing that, on a clear understanding of the subject, the citizens of Reading will not withhold the requisite amount.

The daily sessions have been reduced from six hours to five, in all schools having two sessions. This is a positive improvement, and has met fully the expectations of the advocates of such a measure.

## SCHOOL HOUSES.

With few exceptions our rooms are pleasant and of sufficient capacity; the exceptions are simply abominable. The Village Primary School rooms are crowded to their utmost capacity. Low studded and small, they are no longer fit for the uses to which they have been put, and the Committee are obliged to ask an appropriation sufficient either to erect a new school-house or to make such changes and additions to those we already have, as will, for four or five years at least, accommodate the children who must be provided for. We shall soon need, at the present rate of growth, additional rooms, and the establishment of additional schools; in fact, we ought, this year, to create a lower Grammar School; Miss Knight's being already so large as to require for her an assistant, and with the large additions to be made the coming fall, her school will need to be divided. Our estimates cover this.

We think we may be able to raise and enlarge the Union Street Medium school-house, and remodel the Primary School-room in Union Hall building, and thus secure the required accommodation for a few years; but at no very distant day—five years, at the furthest—the Town will be obliged to erect a commodious building for the lower village schools.

By authority of the Town, the Trustees of the Public Library removed that institution from the High School building, giving up the old room for a laboratory; by this arrangement, the High School secured a large recitation-room, so desirable in carrying on the proper work of the school.

We have ventilated all rooms requiring it, by Maine's patent system, with gratifying results. The Town authorized us to expend not exceeding \$300 for this purpose. We were enabled to accomplish the object with half that sum.



## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Attention is earnestly called to the fact, that the law of the State allows towns to authorize the employment of a Superintendent of Schools. We certainly think the measure would be a valuable one, and that a higher excellence in our schools would be reached, were they all under the management of one mind, than can be gained under a School-board.

## SCHOOL - BOOKS.

We would recommend the Town to adopt the provisions of the law of 1873, by which the Town purchases and owns the books used in the schools. By this, when one class leave a book, the next would take it; the parents would thereby be relieved from the sometimes burdensome expense of buying the books absolutely needed.

## APPROPRIATIONS.

There will be needed for changes in, and additions to, school-rooms, \$5,000.

The Committee would recommend, for the support of the schools the ensuing year, an appropriation of \$11,000.

We would also recommend that instead of the money needed for the incidental expenses, such as repairs, etc., being taken from the appropriation for Town expenses, a separate sum be appropriated, and that for this purpose we estimate that there will be required the sum of \$500.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Three vacancies must be filled at the approaching annual meeting. Two elections for three years, and one for one, must be had to fill the Board.

We have followed the plan of two years of publishing what the teachers themselves have to say, making no comment on the various schools, unless changes have taken place during the year, or especial information is required.



## UNION STREET LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS RUTH L. PRATT, TEACHER.

"No promotions were made at the beginning of the year; consequently the school is very large,—in the fall term numbering 84 pupils, while the room will seat but 58, and every other way ill adapted for use; no sunlight only for a few minutes in the afternoon; seats very much crowded. During the year three patent ventilators have been introduced, which have remedied, in a measure, the lack of ventilation in the building.

"Prof. Carey has given lessons in music once a week during the year. Committee and friends of the school express surprise at the facility with which these little ones read music."

---

## UNION STREET UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS SARAH A. SWEETSER, TEACHER.

"I desire most earnestly to call the attention of the School Committee and parents to the condition of the Union Street Upper Primary School room, as being quite unsuited to the purposes of a school. Seventy scholars are crowded together in this small room. Some are seated at desks, some upon the platform, while others are obliged to sit upon settees and benches unsuitable for little children. Those who are near the stove are made very uncomfortable by the heat; if the windows are opened, great risk of getting cold is incurred by the scholars near them. The ventilators recently introduced help us some, and yet it is quite impossible to maintain an equable temperature. After the commencement of school, the air soon becomes vitiated, and is rendered poisonous and unfit to be breathed. In consequence of this condition of affairs, the children have suffered greatly, and many of them have been made sick. Some of the parents have very properly taken their children from the school, and others have signified their intention of doing so. In view of these circumstances, it can hardly be supposed that very much could be accomplished by way of profitable school work."

## LOWER MEDIUM SCHOOL.

MISS E. S. FOSTER, TEACHER.

"My school numbers 57. The attendance is very good. There were twenty-two neither absent nor tardy last term, and nine who were absent only one or one half day.

"The children have enjoyed very much the studies introduced during the last year,—the music particularly. They count the time devoted to singing as the best part of the day.

"The 'Book of Nature' has given much pleasure as well as instruction.

"The school has improved in spelling since the introduction of the 'Word Book.'

"I have found the 'Roll of Honor' quite an assistance. Any scholar perfect in recitation for a week, has his name upon the 'Roll of Honor' with the number one against it; if he recites equally well for another week, the number is changed to two, and so on through the term. Twenty-four scholars in the first class had their names on the 'Roll of Honor' the last day of the term; seventeen in the second class."

---

## UPPER MEDIUM SCHOOL.

MISS FRANCES E. MIHAN, TEACHER.

"This school has been under my charge since February 16, 1874. The classes are well advanced in geography and arithmetic, but they are not correspondingly advanced in reading. They have writing every day, drawing once a week; fifteen minutes each day is devoted to singing, and five or ten minutes to calisthenics.

"The scholars I found greatly interested in the school work, and easily governed."

Miss Mary A. Willis, who had successfully taught this school since September, 1872, was, in the middle of the last term, called to a more lucrative position in Cambridge. We at once, on notice of her intention to leave, sought the services of an experienced teacher, such an one as this school requires; but were disappointed the day Miss Willis closed her work. Two other teachers also disappointed us, and we were therefore obliged to place a substitute over the school. Miss Emma

F. Eames undertook the arduous duties of substitute teacher, and although fully qualified, so far as her education was concerned, she lacked age and experience, and, for a brief period, the school suffered exceedingly from the advantages a few unruly spirits seemed determined to take of the want of experience in the new teacher. Prompt support on the part of the Committee enabled the school to resume its orderly ways in a great degree, and gave the young teacher an opportunity to prove herself, with experience, capable of success. As soon as possible, an experienced lady was employed, and under the rule of Miss Mihan, the pupils, well knowing from the support the Committee gave Miss Eames, that good order was required, together with the fact that the new teacher evinced thorough knowledge of the wants of school children, the Upper Medium presents no traces of the temporary disorder which occurred in the middle of the term. The good condition of this school, so long as the present teacher can be induced to take charge of it, is assured.—COMMITTEE.

---

### VILLAGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MISS A. M. KNIGHT, TEACHER. (Miss ADDIE B. HOWES, Assistant.)

“Some changes have been made in the school during the past year. The request for shortening the afternoon session from three to two hours, was kindly granted by the Committee ; this plan was adopted at the beginning of the year, by all the schools having two sessions. In *this* school, at least, all the good results that were expected, have been fully realized.

“At the beginning of the fall term, the number of pupils was considerably increased, owing to the advanced classes of the Walnut Street School being sent here. There being more work than could possibly be well done by one teacher, it was thought best, to place a part of the school in charge of an assistant ; this plan has been a success, though the accommodations are not what we could wish. The recitation-room is hardly suitable, being also used as ante-room by the pupils.

"Contrary to the usual custom, there were no promotions after the summer vacation, consequently the standard of the school is somewhat higher than before. Of course, many were disappointed at the *seeming* stand-still, but there is no doubt the plan will work to the ultimate good of all.

"The attendance has been very good. During the winter term, twenty-eight pupils were not absent. The following were not absent during the year : Misses Minnie Eaton, Carrie Parker, Hattie Hayes, Emma Holden, Lizzie Knight, Augusta Hayes; Masters Arthur Foster, Willie Carter, Harry Jones."

---

## PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL.

Miss LENA T. WOOD, PRINCIPAL. (Miss JENNIE R. BARRUS, Assistant.)

"I think that the amount of work accomplished by my pupils during the past year has been greater than heretofore. This is due mainly to the sympathy existing between teachers and pupils, and the enthusiasm with which the latter have entered into all our plans, and devoted their energies to carrying them into effect.

"The second class has been almost entirely in charge of Miss Barrus, and the results attained indicate faithful and earnest labor on the part of teacher and taught.

"The work of the first class — which has now been with me nearly three years—has largely consisted of the study of language and its correct use.

"Swinton's Word Analysis has received its share of attention for two terms, and has proved to be a most profitable, as well as enjoyable text-book ; a field for very interesting and instructive researches among the words of our language, and a guide to exact thought and expression. My aim has been, to familiarize the pupils with the origin and uses of our common words, and give them freedom in composition, both oral and written. They are trained to bear the closest criticism. This has been of great benefit, not merely in securing the above object, but also in encouraging them to have confidence in themselves, and in throwing them on their own resources, to prove their position on disputed points. The gratifying results of effort in this direction are evident on comparing the first and last issues of "The Weekly Echoes," a paper started by the class in October, and supported entirely by their original contributions.



"The study of Dickens' History of England has been a prominent feature of these terms, and I need not say that they have taken great interest in this attractive work, though, of course, other authorities have been freely consulted, and our new library is an important auxiliary in all our exercises.

"Perhaps the *hardest work* has been done on Guyot's Physical Geography, but the pupils are daily finding it less difficult, and are making satisfactory progress in it.

"Physiology and Botany each received attention during one term, and Algebra will be taken up after the spring vacation. Our music is a daily pleasure, and great improvement has been made, particularly by the masters who are no longer distanced by the misses."

---

### MAIN STREET SCHOOL.

MISS FLORENCE PARKER, TEACHER.

"The Main Street School numbers sixteen scholars, between the ages of seven and sixteen. On account of this difference in their ages, it has been necessary to have a number of different classes, and but a few in each class. The older scholars have written compositions weekly, some of which have been very good. Some of the scholars have improved very much in writing. I have required them to write their spelling lessons, and so combined improvement in spelling and writing. They take great interest in singing, and look forward with great pleasure to the coming of Mr. Carey, once a fortnight."

Miss Julia McDuffie closed her labors in this school during the year. She was one of our ablest teachers, and her departure from this school was regretted. Miss Parker is satisfactorily carrying on the work of the school.—COMMITTEE.

---

### LOWELL STREET SCHOOL.

MISS LIZZIE F. B. CLARK, TEACHER.

"The progress of the school during the past year has been, on the whole, satisfactory. It is, I think, more marked in reading and writing than in any of the other studies. The scholars enjoy music very much, and sing quite well, considering the amount of time that has been devoted to this branch. The attendance has been fair, the number of small scholars reducing the average. I rely principally on moral suasion in governing; but a judicious use of other means in extreme cases has produced good results."

## HAVERHILL STREET SCHOOL.

MISS ABBIE WAKEFIELD, TEACHER.

"Owing to diversity of age in my school, I have many classes, and few scholars in a class. The older scholars have made decided progress in reading, arithmetic, geography, and grammar, throughout the year. The younger portion of the school have made as much progress in reading and spelling. The scholars write and draw well. Owing to frequent absences among the older scholars, during the latter part of this term, these older scholars seem to be wanting proper ambition. The deportment of school is good. The number of scholars is larger this year than last."

---

## WALNUT STREET SCHOOL.

MISS SARAH L. STOODLY, TEACHER.

"The Grammar and Primary departments were united at the commencement of the school year. The general attendance has been good; more than a third of the pupils have not been absent or tardy during both terms. They manifest a good degree of interest in their studies, and the co-operation of the parents has been very gratifying to the teacher."

Miss E. M. Porter, of the Walnut Street Grammar School, and Miss Addie B. Howes, of the Primary department, closed their work with the spring term. At the commencement of the year, September, these schools were united, and have since been under the charge of Miss Stoodly. The union of the two departments has been attended with success, and, under the tuition of Miss Stoodly, with commendable results.—COM.

---

## WOBURN STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

MISS LILLIE F. LORING, TEACHER.

"My school has been quite small this term, and I have been able to give more time to each pupil, and think they have made considerable improvement in their studies. The scholars seem interested in music, and sing quite well for such small children."



## WOBURN STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MISS HELEN M. CLARK, TEACHER.

"We have been devoting especial attention to reading the last term, and think that the school is started in the way to succeed. Our idea has been to master the difficult words before recitation, giving time for all to read the lesson through just before reciting. We have been learning to define by the prefixes and suffixes, as well as by reference to the dictionary. We have sought to understand the lessons assigned, learning about the characters, places, &c., given.

"In spelling, we have chosen lessons in the Word-Book, suggested by some other lessons. If we read about a ship, we learned to spell and define the parts of a ship; returning to the regular course of lessons when no particular subject was suggested.

"Our arithmetic has been taken from real, every-day life, as much as possible, using the text-book for direction, and then making the rules practical. Many of the pupils seem interested in their work. We have had examples from the board to illustrate the principles, till the pupils had secured them.

"In geography, we have had some very good map-drawing, and have sought to obtain incidents from other sources. The pupils seem to like learning facts about the lakes, rivers, &c., not contained in the text-book.

"We have tried to find the reasons why in our grammar, and be able to speak correctly as well as parse. We have paid considerable attention to declension and conjugation, in order to fix the cases and tenses, and know where to find them, and how.

"In writing, we have used one, No. 4, for the whole school, paying particular attention to the form, slant, and height of the letters, and position in writing. Many of the pupils have been very careful, and have advanced.

"The day for our music lesson is awaited quite impatiently, and the pupils never object to the time devoted. It is a real treat, and they enjoy every moment.

"Our school have been in the habit of bringing any question from outside of books and regular school work for the few minutes given after close study. Anything which has been observed and not understood, has been talked about familiarly and freely. The scholars enjoy these general exercises, and some who forget other things remember these.

“We have alternated mental arithmetic with some study, and the pupils have taken hold of it well.

“We have sought to set the will of the boys and girls, with their overflow of life, in the right direction, and have them do right for right's sake. The aim of the teacher has been to help the pupils control themselves. We hope for success in this direction.”

Miss Clark took charge of this school last September, and is doing an excellent work.—COMMITTEE.

---

## READING HIGH SCHOOL.

CYRUS A COLE, PRINCIPAL. (Miss MARTHA KEITH, Assistant.)

“*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the School Committee,—*

I beg leave to submit the following Report :—

According to the present organization of the High School, there are two classes : the first, or senior class, comprising those pupils who will have completed a four years' course of study by the close of another term ; and the second class, consisting of two sections—one of these, division A, at the end of the summer term, will have been in the High School three years ; the other, division B, in another term will have been connected with the school two years.

When the English course of study was changed from four years to three years, it was apprehended that some perplexity might arise in the satisfactory arrangement of classes and studies. An experience of two years has demonstrated that this apprehension was well founded. To avoid the necessity of four daily recitations by each section, it was deemed advisable to postpone the complete consideration of natural philosophy by division A, and chemistry by division B, until a later term in the course. It is believed that, after the summer term, difficulties of this kind will no longer arise.

*Languages.*—During the past two terms, the senior class has been making excellent progress in the study of English literature. Frequent essays, abstracts, and examinations have afforded most material aid in securing good results. This class read last summer “*Télémaque par Fénelon*,” and in the fall term “*Les Princes de l’Art*.” German was then commenced as an optional study. Thus far the class has become thoroughly familiar with the paradigms, having prepared daily written exercises designed to illustrate grammatical principles. Divisions A and B will have finished in about eight weeks the Elementary French Reader, already begun.

*Spelling.*—It is to be regretted that so much time is devoted to spelling, during school life, with such comparatively poor results. Daily attention has been given to this subject by all the members of the High School.

*Mathematics.*—Book-keeping. Division A will devote another term to this subject. Division B, having completed the course in Geometry, will commence Book-keeping in April. As no student can derive any great advantage from a course in book-keeping until he understands arithmetic, English composition and spelling, special attention will be given next term to commercial arithmetic, and letter writing by the classes pursuing this very important branch of study.

*Geometry.*—The experience of another year has served to confirm the opinion expressed in former reports in regard to geometry, a study which is valuable, not only on account of the utility of its truths, but also for the mental discipline which it affords. It is purposed to give weekly exercises, next term, having particular reference to some of the practical applications of this science.

*Drawing.*—This study is most admirably adapted to the skilful training of the eye and hand, and hence should no longer be regarded as merely an ornamental branch.

Several pupils commenced mechanical drawing last term, as an optional study in connection with geometry. “It is calculated that the productive efficiency of every machine-shop would be increased *thirty-three per cent* if every journeyman could

read any common working-drawing and work by it." The principle enunciated in this statement merits the consideration of all interested in the cause of education.

## SPECIAL STUDIES.

*German.*—Members of the graduating class of '73 have continued their study of German during the fall and winter terms. They will have weekly recitations during the spring term, reading selections from Lessing and Schiller.

*Latin.*—Members of the present senior class desiring it, have been pursuing their Latin studies in addition to the regular school work. They will begin Virgil's *Æneid* at the commencement of next term.

*Chemistry.*—Did space permit, it might be profitable to make extended reference to the value of this science in relation to the other physical sciences and the arts. From eight to ten hours per week have been devoted to laboratory practice, aside from school time. This work has been optional, and the most encouraging results have been secured. The subjects suggested in the first half of Elliot & Storer's *Elementary Manual* have been experimentally studied; also, the first twenty-one sections of the *Chemical Qualitative Analysis*, by the same authors. During the next term the class will be able to consider very conveniently the remaining topics in both these text-books."

The annual examination of the High School occurred June 6th, at the school room, and continued during the forenoon. The graduating exercises took place in Lyceum Hall in the afternoon.

The class of 1873 consisted of

MORTON BARROWS,  
EMMA F. EAMES,  
NELLIE MINOT,  
MARY E. NICHOLS,  
ANNIE B. PARKER,

FLORENCE PARKER,  
ADA L. SAFFORD,  
ELLA F. WAKEFIELD,  
IDA R. WHITTIER.



Diplomas were presented in a happy manner by Rev. W. A. Thompson. Miss Ada L. Safford gave the history of the graduating class in a most satisfactory composition. The predictions for the class, by Mr. Morton Barrows, gave life and humor to the exercises, and his admirable production was well received.

The valedictory, by Miss Emma F. Eames, won encomiums from all who heard it, and she well deserved the hearty thanks her class gave her.

---

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC.

PROF. HENRY G. CARY, PRINCIPAL.

“According to request, I send you a statement of the work done in the schools during the past year, in the Department of Music. Since the last report, the study of music has been introduced into all the schools. This is a wise step, as there is no reason why the study of music as a science should not begin with the youngest pupils.

“I am sure that those who have visited the Primary Schools during the music lesson are convinced that young children can learn to read music as easily as their primers, if it is presented properly. My work has been a very pleasant one. The teachers in all the schools have heartily sustained me, and the pupils have seemed to enjoy the music hour. My profession gives me a good opportunity to judge, and I think that Reading schools stand in the front rank in most respects, in comparison with other schools in the vicinity of Boston. The exception is this: pupils are not *required* to sing unless they feel like it. Although instances where all the pupils of a school do not sing are rare, still, the fact that music is not treated as any other study, is a serious difficulty in the music teacher's path. Besides the regular practice of singing, I have given all the schools, except the lower Primary, and some of those in remote

districts, a printed examination every month. These are so graded that pupils who pass them correctly can sing in any key when they enter the upper medium classes. The average of correct answers in different schools is between 93 and 98 per cent.

“I have also heard nearly every pupil, below the High School, sing individually, to ascertain the proportion of those who cannot learn to sing. I have found only five girls who cannot follow a melody correctly, and three of these are nearly correct. There are nineteen boys who have not “a good ear for music,” most of whom are in the highest classes. I am sure that most of these could sing well, were it not for diffidence or obstinacy. I have the record of the above examinations to show the Committee if they wish.

“I hope the above figures will cause the Board to compel every child to take part in the singing exercise, unless the music teacher, by examination, shall ascertain that the pupil has really no talent for music.”

Respectfully submitted.

CARROLL D. WRIGHT,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
HIRAM BARRUS,		
S. E. PARKER,		
WM. J. WIGHTMAN,		
SIDNEY P. PRATT,		

READING, March 2, 1874.







